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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE 8692

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0518

RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE 2630

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0713

RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 1022

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 017336

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PARM PNAT KTIA PINS TSPA TPHY ESA

CDG, PUOS, NASA, NATO, GM, AS, CA, UK, FR, JA, CH, UP, RS, IN, IT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL NOTIFICATION OF U.S. SATELLITE ENGAGEMENT

¶1. (U) This is an immediate action request. See paragraphs 2 and 3.

¶2. (SBU) GUIDANCE FOR BERLIN, BRASILIA, CANBERRA, LONDON, OTTAWA, PARIS, ROME, TOKYO, BEIJING, KYIV, MOSCOW, PRAGUE, COPENHAGEN, TEL AVIV, SANTIAGO, WARSAW, SEOUL, THE HAGUE, AND NEW DELHI, USNATO (FOR NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL), USUN (FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND UN SECURITY COUNCIL), UNVIE (FOR THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE), AND GENEVA (FOR U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT): Ambassador or other appropriate senior official in each host country or mission is instructed to make arrangements to deliver today the written notification, publicly released by the U.S. Department of Defense on February 20, in paragraph 4. Embassy Paris also should deliver notifications in paragraph 4 to the European Space Agency. Embassies and missions are requested to provide confirmation of delivery and any reactions provided at the time of delivery. Embassies also may draw upon, as appropriate, the official news releases that will be posted on the U.S. Department of Defense public website. Any additional media questions should be referred to U.S. Department of Defense Public Affairs in Washington.

¶3. (U) GUIDANCE FOR ALL OTHER DIPLOMATIC POSTS:

Ambassador or other appropriate senior official in each host country may -- at their discretion -- deliver the notification in paragraph 4 to their host government.

Embassies and missions are requested to provide any significant reactions provided at the time of delivery.

Embassies may additionally draw upon, as appropriate, the official news releases that will be posted on the U.S. Department of Defense public website. Any additional media questions should be referred to U.S. Department of Defense Public Affairs in Washington.

¶4. (U) BEGIN NOTIFICATION:

A network of land-, air-, sea- and spaced-based sensors confirms that the U.S. military intercepted a non-functioning National Reconnaissance Office satellite which was in its final orbits before entering the earth's atmosphere.

At approximately 10:26 p.m. EST on February 20 (0326 UTC on February 21), a U.S. Navy AEGIS warship, USS Lake Erie (CG-70), fired a single modified tactical Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) hitting the satellite approximately

247 kilometers (133 nautical miles) over the Pacific Ocean as it traveled in space at more than 17,000 miles per hour (27,400 kilometers per hour). USS Decatur (DDG-73) and USS Russell (DDG-59) are also part of the task force.

The objective was to rupture the fuel tank to dissipate the approximately 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms) of hydrazine, a hazardous fuel which could pose a danger to people on earth, before it entered into earth's atmosphere. Confirmation that the fuel tank has been fragmented should be available within 24 hours.

Due to the relatively low altitude of the satellite at the time of the engagement, debris will begin to re-enter the earth's atmosphere immediately. Nearly all of the debris will burn up on reentry within 24 to 48 hours and the remaining debris should re-enter within 40 days.

DoD will conduct a press briefing at 7:00 a.m. EST (1200 UTC) on February 21 to provide further information related to the operation. The briefing can be viewed live on [www.Defenselink.com](http://www.Defenselink.com).

END NOTIFICATION.

¶5. (SBU) Direct any inquiries or feedback from host governments to ISN/MDSP (Mr. Richard Buenneke) at (202) 647-3731 or SIPRNET [buennekerh@state.sgov.gov](mailto:buennekerh@state.sgov.gov) and T (Mr. Tim Katsapis) at (202) 647-0072 or SIPRNET

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¶6. (U) TRIPOLI MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
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